

Minnesota MUFON Journal

Issue #105 Jan./Feb. 2004

Directors Report

Note: As of Jan. 1st, 2004 Bill McNeff and Dick Moss will switch their Minnesota MUFON official roles. Dick will become State Dir. and Bill, Assistant State Dir. Since Bill is still State Dir. at the time this issue goes to print, I am showing his report still as State Dir.
Joel Henry, Ed.

ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION – 2004

By William I. McNeff, MN MUFON State Dir.

Infiltration of the UFO subject into the mass media continued with the Dec. 12th presentation by the SciFi channel of the Rendlesham Forest case, which has been called "England's Roswell". Original witnesses were interviewed and some of the main witnesses were brought to England to retrace their steps at the original locations. This resulted in the revelation that the two incidents occurred at different locations, and that one location was out of sight of the famous lighthouse, eliminating it as the cause of one of the sightings. The program gave only a summary of the sightings, but the principals, including Col. Charles Halt, have given full details of the sightings on other occasions. Col. Halt stated that his famous memo left out important details of what happened in an effort to "tone down" the report. The SciFi channel is to be commended for actually doing some serious research on this case.

Some time ago I summarized in this newsletter a meeting which took place in December 1998. In this meeting a man who claimed to represent a government group cognizant of the facts about UFOs stated that members of the government group were engaged in a phased release of information about the subject.

Before and since that date many alleged government documents about "MJ-12", retrievals of crashed aerial vehicles, technology and extraterrestrial biological entities have surfaced from a variety of known and unknown sources. For more information about MJ-12, see *An Alien Harvest* and *Glimpses of Other Realities, Vol. II: High Strangeness*, both by Linda Moulton Howe. Ms. Howe placed on her website an unsigned document dated October 21, 1990 and marked "CONFIDENTIAL, 0 copies, No dissemination". This emerged allegedly from a British and American think tank in England about a program to acclimate the public to "first-hand encounter" phenomenon and "crop circles." Ms. Howe got her copy from Jim Marrs who agreed its contents could be shared with the public, acknowledging that source verification is lacking. However, the statements and reasoning in this document are worthy of analysis:



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

**Sat., Jan. 10th
1:30-5pm
&
Sat., Feb. 14th
1:30-5pm**

**New Brighton Family
Service Center
400 - 10th St. NW
(located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)**

PARK FREE!

**The building is designated as
non-smoking.**

See map on back cover

**(Note: The building has no
special security, so you can
come and go as you please
and smoke outdoors. There
are elevators for those who
may need them.)**

TO: Policy Committee

Subject: Observations on Public Acclimation Program

"The metered release of information to the public through various unofficial channels continues to generate much interest and an increasing level of awareness, with little if any observable side-effects, other than healthy skepticism on the part of some people.

We would like to suggest continuing the present approach, as it is making information available to those who are psychologically ready for it, without causing stress on those who are not ready.

The present approach is also proving helpful to those who are having first-hand encounters. It is providing them with a context in which to put experiences they cannot otherwise explain or understand. Having some conception of this phenomenon is an enormous psychological relief to these people - and helps them get on with their lives, as best as possible. Providing information which helps people to cope will become increasingly important as the percentage of the population having these encounters continues to rise. Some assistance in this area can be expected by various civilian support groups, which have been formed by interested parties.

Over time, it may be appropriate to increase the accuracy and the consistency of information in circulation. Possibly, as the public gets more comfortable with IAC sightings (Identified Aerial Craft and/or Identified Alien Craft) and 'crop circles,' additional types of information can be released. It appears most of the research community is running one to two years or more ahead of the mainstream media. This gives some timeframe for possible disclosures to the general public - while providing advance details to those who are ready for it now. Having a certain number of informed citizens could well prove to be an invaluable resource in the face of unpredictable future events. Indeed, history may record that it was these aware people who set aside their differences and worked together most to help humanity, their

country and their government in the changing times and challenges ahead."

The first statement about "The metered release of information..." supports the statement made at the Dec. 1998 meeting about a phased release of information.

Regarding this, I have to mention a third-hand story passed on to me by a friend, who knew the best friend of a rancher woman whose ranch was on the north side of the White Sands Proving Ground. This rancher heard a crash one stormy night in July 1947, and found a crashed craft within walking distance of the ranch house. A degree of confirmation for this story subsequently appeared in the form of an alleged government document placed on the Robert and Ryan Wood website, listing a crash site in the Oscura range on the north side of White Sands. The dovetailing of these two pieces of information increases my confidence in the value of the Woods documents.

The statement about "the percentage of the population having these encounters" continuing to rise has interesting implications.

The document states "Some assistance in this area can be expected by various civilian support groups..." We in MUFON have already recognized our responsibilities in this area, and educating the public is part of our official mission statement.

"Over time, it may be appropriate to increase the accuracy and the consistency of information in circulation." This would imply that we have been given some disinformation and inconsistent information. No big surprise there! Grant Cameron and others have said that some of the "leaked government documents" may have been altered to get around the restrictions on release of classified documents.

"Having a certain number of informed citizens could well prove to be an invaluable resource in the face of unpredictable future events." This statement implies that they do not know exactly what the aliens might do. It reminds one of the statement in the "MJ-12 Briefing Document" that says a public announcement should be prepared in case of unforeseen events. It also underlines the importance of groups such as MUFON.

The final sentence mentioning "the changing times and challenges ahead" is in accord with the rest of

the document, which implies concern but is notable for lack of panic. I remain an optimist about the whole situation, and if I had to make a bet I would bet that ETs have both our interests and the interests of all beings in the universe at heart.

**Close Encounters and Taken,
Two views of the UFO Phenomenon by
Steven Spielberg
©2003 by Craig R. Lang, MS. CHt**

One night, as I was doing some late night channel surfing, I stumbled across a rerun of the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". I had not seen this movie for awhile. And this time, I was struck by how accurately the movie seemed to capture the state of UFO studies during the 1970s. A few weeks later, the miniseries "Taken" was re-aired on the Sci-Fi channel. I was struck by how well each production seemed to capture the state of UFO/CE4 studies, both as it was twenty-five years ago, and as it is today.

It was 25 years ago, nearly this time of year, when I first saw the movie "Close Encounters". It was a cold December evening, just after having taken my last final exam of that semester in engineering school. At that time in life, for a variety of reasons, I had a resurgence of interest in UFOs. There had been a recent surge of sightings, a few of which had made the media. There had been a few fascinating news items about SETI, including the WOW signal, in 1977. Yet, while interested, I really didn't know much about the state of UFO studies at the time. And so, much of the symbology - the most meaningful dynamics of the movie were lost to me.

More historical perspective: This was not too long after the demise of NICAP. MUFON was a relatively young organization, with a bright future - but completely unknown to me. At that time, the abduction/experiencer phenomenon apparently had not yet emerged into the world of UFO research. And so it appears that the present picture had not yet begun to form.

Now, 25 years later, as I watched again, I noticed that many of the signs of the abduction phenomenon were actually depicted in the movie. But at that time, they were interpreted differently. Some of these were:

- Repeated, close-up sightings of UFOs.

- The compulsion to go-to/return-to a particular location - somehow associated with a sighting or anomaly experience.
- The sense of mission - knowing that there is something that one is supposed to do, but not sure what it means.
- Hidden knowledge - knowing something that is just outside of the edge of awareness - with no obvious source.
- The impact of the phenomenon on the family dynamics of the experiencer.
- The cover-up - the idea that there is a secret government effort to come to terms with the Visitors, in some way.

Other aspects of the abduction phenomenon were pretty much missed. Missing time, the actual abduction scenario, and the apparent genetic/reproductive aspects of the phenomenon had not yet emerged into the literature. In fact, they were actively denied by some researchers. I could not discern any references to the classic two-hour abduction event later described by Budd Hopkins, Whitley Strieber, etc...

As I understand it, at that time the working hypothesis among UFO researchers was that the phenomenon was a nuts and bolts visitation by an extraterrestrial civilization. Perhaps they were preparing us for contact, and that at some point soon there would be overt first contact. Such a build-up toward open contact seemed to be suggested by the UFO waves of the 1970s. This includes the 1973 "Year of the Humanoid". It also includes the 1979 wave, which seems to be emerging in old sighting reports being investigated by Minnesota MUFON.

Yet the overt contact never really happened. Instead, what emerged were increasingly common accounts of a covert/furtive abduction phenomenon. Instead of a Fourth-of-July-style landing at a specially constructed amphitheatre at Devil's Tower, Wyoming, we have small entities appearing to a small percentage of humanity, individually, in the dark of night. It is a massive, but secretive effort of an unknown - and perhaps incomprehensible - nature.

There was another fascinating thing which the movie captured, but which I had not yet understood until the present time. This was the idea of a universal language. I had not understood the apparent ideas behind this until nearly twenty years later, when I had begun to study Eastern Tradition

Meditation. And at the core of this was the idea that there are universally-meaningful sounds. This is the idea behind mantras, chants, and some forms of prayer. In addition, the hand signs which were also depicted in the movie, and which accompanied these universal sounds, are also described in various forms in the eastern tradition.

Although I am not aware of this permeating UFO studies at that time, I suspect that there were accounts of this surfacing in reports. I further suspect that many such accounts were in some way, the surface manifestations of deeper interactions with the phenomenon - abductions, contacts and other encounters.

Now, twenty-five years later, Steven Spielberg has again made a movie about the UFO encounter scene. This again captures the current state of thought in UFO studies. This is the miniseries "Taken" shown on the Sci-Fi channel this year. Overall, I am extremely impressed with the way Spielberg has portrayed the UFO abduction phenomenon. He seems to capture the ambiguity and reality-shift aspects of it extremely well. He also portrays the family-line "inheritance" that seems to be characteristic of experiencer families.

In the key events in the series we see the character of Allie - the psychic child who is the apparent "end-product" of these family lineages. What seems to be portrayed here is Spielberg's idea of where the phenomenon is headed - and this is, that its purpose is to create a new-human. This psychic child reminds me a lot of some of the children of experiencers I have met (although so far, they have been nowhere near as extremely gifted as Allie is portrayed in the movie). This appears to be what Jan Tober describes in her book "The Indigo Children". So, is Allie intended to represent in one person, a whole generation of indigo children? Or is Steven Spielberg trying to show something else here? It will be very interesting to see what future UFO-fiction (especially that of Steven Spielberg) has to say about. But one question I will float out there for general discussion: Are Allie - and all the "Allie's" out there - the future of humanity?

I can only wonder what the state of UFO studies will be like 25 years from now. Will we have solved the mystery? Or will this phenomenon do as it has done so far - apparently evolving over time, leaving an ever-continuing trail of mystery and enigma? As I consider the change in thinking over the last twenty-five years, I once again wonder: what will

we notice 25 years from now? As I imagine myself seeing the series "Taken" again at that remote time in the future, I can easily envision noticing details and saying "Oh, that's what Spielberg meant... Now I understand".

LT. COLONEL CHARLES HALT & THE RENDLESHAM FOREST CASE

by Bill McNeff

This is a condensation of accounts by Col. Charles Halt of the Rendlesham case, which appeared on Neil Morris' web site.

The release of an official memorandum by Lt. Col. Halt (Deputy Commander of RAF Woodbridge) to the British Ministry of Defense, via the Freedom of Information Act in the United States in June 1983, caused a sensation. Four months later, the document was splashed on the front page of the "News of the World", heralding the claim 'UFO Lands in Suffolk - and that's Official!' The Halt memorandum is reproduced below:

=====THE HALT MEMORANDUM=====

*DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Headquarters 81st combat support group (USAFE)
APO New York 09755*

*REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD*

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 DEC 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at AF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate.

The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It

illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on the nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep an 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/Gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all objects were about 10' off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activity in paragraphs 2 and 3.

*CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander*

=====END OF USENET TEXT=====

On 31 July 1994, Charles Halt gave a fascinating lecture to UFO enthusiasts at a hastily arranged venue in Leeds. Halt was in the United Kingdom to record an interview with London Weekend Television. He spoke with confidence, and authority, and detailed his former military credentials, educational background, and current occupation. He confessed that speaking publicly

about his role on the nights in question left him feeling a touch uncomfortable.

He did not wish to appear as some kind of UFO expert, merely a private citizen who had, with some reluctance, agreed to participate in a number of television programs that dealt with the extraordinary incidents at RAF Woodbridge.

Halt told a hushed audience that RAF Woodbridge was a strategically important front-line NATO base in 1980, occupied by the United States Air Force, whose A-10 "tankbuster" aircraft would have been deployed above Germany in the event of an attack by Soviet forces. It did not contain nuclear ordnance according to Halt. Nonetheless, he concurred that it was a heavily guarded installation, and armed security patrols were at constant state of readiness.

There is some question regarding the actual date of the incident. Halt referred to Christmas week - between 25-27 December, and identified personnel involved with the first "encounter". "Burroughs and Parker noticed an object at the end of the runway. Red, blue and white lights were seen," he said.

The Colonel claimed no official record of this sighting was recorded, but did acknowledge that radar operators at Heathrow Airport, London, had observed two targets over the base. These eventually disappeared off the radar scope.

A patrol was sent to the area to investigate. Three officers set off on foot, "to go to the scene of a possible crash," Halt said. As the men approached the forest, their radios experienced unusual interference.

A type of craft was clearly visible. Identification was impossible. Reading from a carefully compiled series of notes, Halt then revealed what the men had reported:

"Penniston, Burroughs and Kavanasac hit the ground. Then, Penniston said Burroughs tried to get on the object.

"Burroughs said one side of the object was invisible...see through...[transparent].

"The craft was 9ft tall, pyramid-shaped, and had blue lights on the underside and a red light on top."

[Burroughs also said in an interview that the craft "was about the size of a tank." and also that he saw

markings/symbols on the side of it. He described these as being "familiar looking, but I couldn't make them out"] .

The witnesses claimed the object levitated and hovered as it journeyed through the forest. Halt also described a tri-pod arrangement, which could have been responsible for trace marks found at the scene during later investigation. For some ninety minutes the USAF patrol followed the object as it maneuvered through the trees.

The subsequent investigation proved decisive. "Three definite marks were found, these were ten feet apart. At a height of 25ft, surrounding pine trees were damaged. The Deck Sergeant didn't put in that in the log," Halt claimed.

General talk on the base was now centered around the UFO incident. Less than forty-eight-hours later, the USAF had another opportunity to discover the truth.

During a Christmas dinner party attended by forty people, which was comprised of Officers, an officer by the name of Bruce England entered the room. Halt recalls the beginning of a long night:

"Bruce England came in.....He was as white as a sheet and said, 'It's back!' I said, 'What's back?'"

According to England, further unidentified lights were being monitored at the East Gate. A set of searchlights which were trained at the unknown lights didn't work. Halt then issued an order for 'Starlights' [night vision scopes] to be taken immediately to the scene. He was among several persons now observing 'a dull glow in the forest'. "Let's get this thing sorted out once and for all," he announced. Geiger counters, micro-cassette recorders and cameras were distributed. He also requested 'utility jackets', because it was very cold.

When the team (headed by Halt) arrived at the East Gate, there was already much activity. Vehicles were moving around and people were generally excited. Through the 'Starlight Scope', Halt saw the glow. He also watched an orange-colored sphere moving as if under intelligent control.

"Lieutenant England then noticed the bright object. I thought it looked just like the Sun. An oval shape, winking. It had a black center and moved horizontally - and danced about." The team set-off in pursuit. "We chased the object for two minutes."

"The UFO appeared to be shedding molten metal. It then exploded....there were five lights....then they vanished."

After the lights disappeared, two elliptical objects were observed. According to Halt, "they moved very fast," The objects shone beams of light onto the ground.

Seconds later a 'UFO' moved towards the US servicemen. Halt earnestly believed his men were in trouble. But the UFO left.

This strange sequence of events had begun at 10.30pm and finally ended at 4.00am the following morning. Halt had recorded much of the encounter on a small personal cassette. The following day, the US Colonel presented details of the incident to his superiors. USAF HQ replied, 'this is a U.K affair'. Amazingly, the MoD showed no enthusiasm to talk to Halt.

It was on the insistence of Squadron Leader Morland, that the Colonel drafted the now famous 'Halt Memo'. This was forwarded to Whitehall , but still nothing happened. Interestingly, official film footage of the event disappeared at the same time as news of the Halt tape recording found its way into the public domain.

One puzzling event which has mystified Colonel Halt concerns the arrival of an unscheduled C141 Galaxy transporter just hours after the encounter. He confirmed he knew nothing about its purpose, or why a group of 'special individuals' departed the aircraft and headed immediately out to the East Gate and into the forest.

Claims from people who have sworn binding allegiance to their flag must be treated with caution. Retirement from armed forces does not automatically discharge people from their previous responsibilities, particularly when they have been involved with security... and UFOs.

The CE4 Phenomenon: Whitley Strieber's Look at the Dark Side © 2003 by Craig R. Lang, MS. CHt

I recently read Whitley Strieber's new journal entries, on his website: www.unknowncountry.com. His first article was: "Shedding Light on the Dark Side", (www.unknowncountry.com/journal/?id=143) ,

and his subsequent article was: "Shedding Light on the Dark Side, Part Two",
(www.unknowncountry.com/journal/?id=144).

In many ways, reading this article pair was unnerving. The first article, especially, seems to portray a very non-positive side to the close encounter phenomenon. In the second article, he seems to backpedal a bit on the darkness of the phenomenon. Yet he still seems to have more strongly taken the view that the dark side of the close encounter phenomenon is very real, and can be a very distinct concern to experiencers.

Although it is still not at all clear what the "agenda" of the phenomenon is, or even what close encounters are, Whitley suggests that recent events have taken a distinctly darker turn. It is not clear if any one specific event occurred to change his thinking. But I've generally noted that the CE4 phenomenon is a mixed bag: At once sinister and potentially enlightening. Like any challenge, it provides opportunities for enrichment, but it also can be a source of trauma. Apparently, from Whitley's latest journal entry, the traumatic aspect has been surfacing a lot in recent times.

In total, from what experiencers seem to describe, it appears that the phenomenon is neither positive, nor negative. Most describe an aggregate of events that seem to be orthogonal-to/independent-of our own value judgments. In short, the phenomenon is what it is. It also appears that a lot of the meaning that we perceive in the phenomenon (as in many other experiences) is what we bring to the phenomenon ourselves.

I have known a number of people who have had some pretty severe contact trauma. Often, when doing hypnotherapy work with close encounter trauma, I've found that there is often been a pre-existing cluster of memories, experiences, and thought-complexes (referred to as "ego states") that amplified the fear. This can often be a fear of the unknown, and is frequently initiated at a very young age by some very human influences. In the case of "Evelyn" in my article "The Meaning We Bring with Us", this pre-existing mindset had been engendered in her with the "help" of a fundamentalist minister who taught that anything unknown was diabolical.

The phenomenon has a tremendous impact on one's life - for better or for worse. It often seems to act as a catalyst to bring out our own emotions and spirituality. I have noted that it tends to be both a

cause of - and an effect of - spiritual awakening. There is often a positive feedback cycle between one's predisposition and one's phenomenal experiences. e.g. if one has a positive outlook on things extraordinary then encounters will by-and-large be positive. Conversely, if one's predisposition is toward negativity/fear then the encounters will probably be non-positive. The resulting experiences with the phenomenon then feed back to enhance that disposition. As a multitude of new-age authors have said it so well, we create our own reality.

I'm not an expert on Whitley's actual experiences. I have read his books, and they do seem more positive than what I've heard him say recently. So, rather than speak for him, I would simply suggest reading the articles and see what he says. Maybe you will understand it differently from what I did.

Yet, when hearing any person or publication that suggests "the answers", my discernment flag goes all the way up the pole. And so it is with Whitley's latest articles, too. But he does have a point: The Visitors are nothing to be trifled with. For everyone I know that has experienced contact, it has invariably been life changing. And to anyone who says they want to experience contact, I caution: "Be careful what you wish for." Because Once it begins, life will never be the same.

SCI FI SUPPORTS NEW SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVE TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

Unprecedented Cooperative Joins Together Major Organizations To Engage Scientific Community

Washington, D.C. - Recognizing the need to establish the scientific legitimacy of investigating unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), SCI FI Channel today announced a new initiative that brings together the major organizations investigating this still mysterious phenomenon and establishes a multi-group effort to study the physical evidence associated with UAP reports.

This unprecedented initiative, supported by the SCI FI Channel, joins together all of the major organizations that study the phenomenon-the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the National Aviation Center for Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP), the National

Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), and the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC).

The goal of the effort is to engage the interest of the broader scientific community with cases featuring trace physical evidence. The cooperative will spearhead thorough scientific investigations of these cases with the intent to publish results in mainstream scientific journals. The groups have created a joint website where members of the public, as well as scientists, can report current UFO sightings (www.ufoscience.org).

"For nearly 50 years, numerous organizations and individuals have reported on and studied the UFO phenomenon," said Dr. Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director of CUFOs. "Until now, these organizations have not combined their accumulated knowledge, expertise, and resources to establish and oversee a systematic, rigorous effort to investigate scientifically promising UAP cases."

At an organizing meeting held this past June in Washington, D.C., leaders of these organizations agreed to develop a framework and protocols to conduct rapid investigation and analysis of cases with physical evidence. "Obtaining and analyzing physical evidence is the best way to determine the validity, and potential causes, of the UAP phenomenon," said John Schuessler, International Director of MUFON.

"It is our hope that by working with scientists who can subject this phenomenon to rigorous investigation and laboratory study, we can understand more about the likely causes of UAP, whether it occurs with discernible patterns or trends, whether existing knowledge is adequate to provide explanations, or whether the phenomenon represents something truly unexplained," said Don Berliner, Chairman of FUFOR.

In addition to landmark documentary programming, last year SCI FI launched a Washington, D.C. based public advocacy initiative to draw greater attention to the UFO phenomenon by the media, scientists and opinion leaders. Those interested in more information on SCI FI's supported public advocacy initiative can log on to www.freedomofinfo.org. On December 12 the channel will premiere UFO INVASION AT RENDLESHAM, a new two-hour special hosted by Bryant Gumbel, exposing what has come to be regarded as the most significant military-UFO incident in history (www.scifi.com/rendlesham).

Field Investigator Update: Dec. 2003/Jan. 2004 by Craig R. Lang MN MUFON FI Coordinator

As the 2003 draws to a close the Minnesota skies seem to have remained busy with UFO activity. Several high quality sighting reports have reached our ears, with cases being investigated by Bill McNeff and others, as well as myself.

Forest Lake Sighting

Recently, I received an e-mail from a visitor to my website, who lives in Forest Lake, with a report of some very interesting "night lights". The sighting occurred on December 2, during the wee hours of the morning. It began when the family dog began to get upset, and apparently had to go outside. The wife got up to let the dog out onto the deck of their house, which faces to the north. As she let the dog out, she noticed a bright light to the west northwest, just above the tree line. At first she felt that it was probably an airplane, but as she watched it for a few moments she realized that its behavior seemed to be quite a bit different. She described the object as a horizontal row of about five lights located at about "thumb height" above the tree line. She noted that the length of the row was about "one-half-thumb-length" (Note: this is very accurate, very quick way to measure the angular size of a UFO, during the "heat of the moment" of a sighting).

As she watched the object, it continued to hover in the same location, with the lights rapidly/randomly strobing in many colors: specifically blue, red, green, and yellow (Note: possible distinction from an airplane is that there is no blue light visible on an approaching aircraft). The object remained stationary for approximately 10 minutes, a time interval which she was able to note, as the clock on her microwave oven was visible from where she stood.

She observed the object for several minutes through binoculars, then ran upstairs to point it out to her husband. He awakened, and after collecting his thoughts (it was about 4:30 AM), he looked out of the bedroom window and saw the lights. He exclaimed "what the hell is that?" In addition, as he watched, the lights apparently "jumped" horizontally a distance of about one thumb-length. He re-acquired them with the binoculars, and observed them change from a row of blinking lights, to two solid amber lights. These then approached their location on a NNW to SSE path, to pass

directly over their house. They indicate that they heard no sound during the entire sighting.

This is one of those “almost-explainable” sightings: The typical null-hypothesis for this is that the object was an aircraft. If this is the case, then it was of a different lighting configuration than the witnesses were familiar with. In addition the silence was quite different from what they hear with aircraft passing overhead. Thus, this sighting is “almost, but not quite” explainable.

Lindstrom Lights

In another case, which I investigated on the same day as the Forest Lake fly-over, I again visited a family which two years earlier, had taken some excellent video of some lights across the lake from their house. I needed to take some background shots of the view in daylight, so the photo analyst could compare them with the video. While there, one family member told me of being with a group who again observed a number of anomalous lights in the sky. IN this case, the witness was with a group of friends. They were looking to the east, when one observed several lights rising from behind the tree line. As they watched, about eight lights rose along the distant horizon, between the ENE and ESE directions. They remained in place for several minutes, and then the southernmost and northernmost lights apparently shot up and disappeared. The others simply faded out.

Again: aircraft? In many ways, the descriptions of bright lights suggest distant landing lights. However, again, some aspects of the lights’ behavior suggest that they were “not quite” explainable as aircraft. So here is yet another “almost-explainable” sighting.

Glenwood, MN 11-8-03 and 11-29-03

Sightings and Pictures

The following reports are from Bill McNeff, regarding his investigation, and the subsequent analysis the photos which appeared on the HBCCUFO website:

<http://www.geocities.com/hbccufo/minnesotaoval.html>

November 8 Sighting/Photo

Summary of Witness Statements from HBCCUFO website, Brian Vike, Director, and from Nov. 13 & 15 e-mails:

The light was oval in shape. It came from the east in a horizontal position horizontal. It was turning to its side or vertical as I was proceeding to take the picture. It emitted a reddish glow or reflection around

it but was clearly BRILLIANT white itself. It stopped and remained “sideways” for a few seconds, then before I snapped again it simply blinked off -- just disappeared. The moon was rising to the southeast of vantage point, air was surreal and it was quiet.

I may only add that when it was coming in horizontal from the east it was more of a blue color....I later watched the eclipse...

The witness provided the following additional information:

“It is our estimation that the object or light was 30 feet long in the vertical position. The distance from the porch [from where the picture was taken] to the car is 46 feet. The camera is an HP320. The Hewlett-Packard 320 has 2.1MP with 4x digital zoom. The photos were processed through Polaroid Photo Max SE program. My computer is HP XT963.”

Investigators Analysis:

I asked the witness to take a couple of reference photos from the same position she photographed the UFO so that I could estimate angular image size and distance. One of the pictures was taken in the regular (un-zoomed) mode and showed the hill over which the UFO was photographed in the background and a car in the foreground. The other was intended to show the same area in daylight in which she had photographed the object at night with the 4x digital zoom.

Photo Analysis:

By measurements of the photos with a ruler it was verified that objects in the 4x zoom mode were twice the height or width of the same objects in the regular mode. To roughly calibrate the distance to the top of the hill over which the object was photographed, it was estimated that the trees on top of the hill were about 30 feet tall. This height or somewhat taller is typical for trees in central Minnesota. Trigonometry gives a distance to the top of the hill of about 900 feet. The estimate that the UFO was 30 feet long in the vertical position, approximately the same dimension as the estimated height of the trees, makes it

reasonable that it was also about 900 feet away, and therefore was hovering over the hill. Examination of the picture indicates that the ground beneath the trees was being illuminated by the UFO or was reflecting light from the UFO. It also appears that a beam of light from the UFO slanting down toward the viewer's left was illuminating part of the trees. Overall, the impression is that the UFO was perhaps somewhat further away than the trees, and the distance may have been 1000 to 1500 feet.

The UFO and reference photos were sent to a photo analyst. He writes: *"There is no detail within the object. The absence of detail indicates the CCD was saturated as shown by blooming patterns around the light. [This means that it was a very bright light as the witness stated. This raises the question of whether the object emitted a reddish glow as the witness stated or if she noted this later on the photograph. -WIM] It is possible to overlay the daylight shots with the night shots, as seen in the attached. [The photographer's] position was off perhaps 5 degrees between the night shot and day shot, but the distance matches. With that, it's clear that the night shot shows no indication of horizontal motion effects. If there was any vertical motion it would have shown as a blurring of the horizon which is not apparent in the variable layers shown below. This is consistent with a continuous light source moving towards the photographer or moving in an upward direction."*

The witness noted that the "air was surreal and it was quiet". This condition has been noted by witnesses in other cases and is part of the complex known as the "Oz" factor. The sudden vanishing is also unusual but not atypical of UFO sightings. These items are further indications of a genuine anomaly.

The reference photos allow calculation of angular diameters. The angular diameter of the UFO at the narrowest part is 0.32 degrees. Since the moon is approx. 0.5 degrees, the object could not be the moon. The witness stated that the moon was rising to the southeast of the object, and that it went into eclipse later, which is true. The witness' statements appear to be accurate. The witness states the picture was taken on a digital camera. Since an ordinary digital camera cannot take multiple exposures, the statement by another UFO researcher that this was probably a multiple

exposure is incorrect. My preliminary conclusion is that the object is unusual and unidentified.

November 29 Sighting/Photo

In addition, Bill includes the following report of a second very interesting sighting which occurred on November 29, 2003. This was by the same witnesses and was also reported via the HBCCUFO site.

Witness #1 (Wife) wrote to Brian Vike HBCCUFO:

*They are back BIG time!
6pm Saturday November 29, 2003.
West Central Minnesota
Five witnesses.*

I only got one really good picture. I have a bunch of other shots but they are not as good.

I saw bright flash in western sky. HUGE bright light. Then it ZIPS to a southeast position. Sits there.

I yelled for (husband) and then for the boys who were having band practice. The object had by then moved to a southwest position and just sat there. Multiple lights flashing and appeared to be changing in shape. I will have each of them write up a separate statement.

The object then SINKS on the horizon VERY SLOWLY. As if to land? This lasted a good total of 20 minutes as of us able to view it. AND it was HUGE. Biggest I have ever seen for the distance.

(Husband) had to leave and the boys were a little shell-shocked. They just couldn't believe what they saw. I continued to watch and a JET came in or at least it sounded like one and I grabbed my camera and keys and went to my car to pursue it. By the time I got down to the lake I no longer could see it or the jet. But it was HUGE!!!!

Witness #2 (Husband) submitted a couple of sketches showing what appears to be a disc-shaped craft with windows around the periphery, reminiscent of the Barney & Betty Hill craft. A bright vertical reflection from a central light or window inside the binoculars is shown on one sketch.

Witness #2 Statement: I saw this with a pair of binoculars (7 x 50, field of view 372 feet at 1000 yards). The reflection of light I say seemed normal to me, the star type of reflection. But the horizontal lights were steady and clear.

Witness #3 (One of their sons) submitted a sketch of what appears to be a disc seen edge-wise, with a row of round lights or window, with a bright vertical reflection from the central lights.

Witness #3 Statement: I saw an object in the sky that my parents showed me. When I looked through their binoculars and seen it closer, it looked like this when I saw it. Whatever it was, it wasn't a star, that's for sure, and I have seen other stuff like this before too.

Investigator's Analysis:

The digital picture shows a horizontal, somewhat irregular red blob, slightly slanted. It is difficult to see on a computer unless the room lights are turned off. The digital picture was sent to a photoanalyst. After enhancements by the photoanalyst to bring out the brightness variations, it shows a slightly irregular row of six brighter areas or lights. The photo confirms, to a first order of approximation, the sketches of the witnesses.

The photoanalyst writes:

"Here's some variations on the blobs. Clear distinct objects. In a digital camera, the exposure time is continuous, SO: there are multiple distinct objects. There are some indications of vertical motion blurring during the exposure. Could be consistent with a strobe from an aircraft.

None of these images are consistent with a 2.1 MP image. They are all too small. There should be detail available not provided in these images. There should be a higher resolution image stored in the camera than what was sent. "

Apparently both the 11-8 and 11-29 images were taken with the 4x digital zoom on. I advised the analyst that I believed that is what happened. He

replied, "I'd say we've pushed this one as far as it can be pushed."

My preliminary conclusion is that the object is unusual and unidentified. You should be able to view the digital pictures for both 11-8 and 11-29 on Brian Vikes' website:

<http://www.geocities.com/hbccufo/minnesotaoval.html>

From the above investigation summaries, we can see that the skies over Minnesota have indeed been busy as of late. I can only anticipate that the trend will continue here, as it has in the rest of the world.

For those wishing to become field investigators, classes are conducted as sufficient interest is indicated. We try to hold classes approximately three times per year, and hope to hold the next one this spring. We plan to hold a beginning class, as well as a refresher class for those who want to beef up their skills at UFO fieldwork. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact the author. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

In addition, perhaps you the reader, might have had a sighting of your own, or might have one in the future. Or perhaps you know someone who has. If you have any further updates on the events in this column, or know of information on other sightings or encounters, please contact Minnesota MUFON. (We can be reached through our website www.mnmufon.org, or contact Craig Lang (phone: 763-560-1532, www.craigrlang.com, e-mail: crlang@craigrlang.com). Also, please stay tuned to this column in each newsletter as we discuss more local and regional sighting cases.

Book Review: Sight Unseen, by Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey © 2003 by Craig R. Lang, MS. CHt

I recently read the new book by Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey entitled "[Sight Unseen](#)". It offers what is at once a concrete view into the scientific plausibility of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon, a chilling view of what the phenomenon seems to be doing, and a potential ray of understanding (and perhaps hope - though, this is MY take on it) at why this is perhaps being undertaken.

In "Sight Unseen" Hopkins and Rainey begin with an examination of several cases in Budd's case files. These are fascinating glimpses into the effect of the phenomenon on our consensus reality - specifically, the idea of temporary invisibility (spontaneous human invisibility). They remind me of several in MN MUFON's own case files (see: "Spontaneous Invisibility: The Mystery We Can Not See" – www.craigrlang.com/spont_invis.htm).

These cases are fascinating enough, but they are just the beginning. Hopkins and Rainey then go on to explore another fascinating aspect of the phenomenon that has to-date been largely ignored in the UFO literature - that of human-appearing beings that seem to be moving about among us (See: "Close Encounters Of the Third Kind In Our Everyday World" - www.craigrlang.com/hu_alien.htm).

In "Sight Unseen" Hopkins/Rainey present some fascinating cases in which apparently "transgenic" beings have appeared in the lives of experiencers. In one case, a character named "Mr. Page" lived with an experiencer family for many years. The primary witness in the case, an experiencer with the pseudonym of "Anne-Marie" had a close familial relationship with him for nearly all of that time - about 15 years. It seems to be, on the surface, a very positive relationship. Yet it has it's definite undertones of non-positivity - especially when she would describe how "Mr. Page" would take Anne-Marie on "nature hikes", of which she remembers very little. In hypnotic trance, references to these apparent missing-time periods engendered powerful emotional responses. This is similar to the emotional responses which experiencers often have when viewing their childhood "secret friend" in hypnotic trance. The positive veneer seems to become a very mixed bag - still positive in some sense, but with an underlying apparently-darker purpose.

Hopkins and Rainey then continue to develop the idea of transgenics. This is the apparent answer to the criticisms of the idea that the UFO/CE4 phenomenon seems to be centered around human-alien hybridization. The "hybridization" idea has been heavily criticized on the grounds that human and alien DNA - if E.T.s would have DNA at all - would be fundamentally incompatible. Hopkins/Rainey grant this point, and build a good case based upon current human medical technology, for gene transplantation from one species to another.

Possible purposes for which this might be done are both encouraging and chilling. There is the possibility that this is simple exploitation - the very darkest side of the idea spectrum. At the lightest side of the spectrum is the idea that they are somehow here to enlighten us, to bring us - well, whatever they are here to bring to us... Somewhere in the middle is the idea that "They" are scientific explorers/researchers, doing to us what "We" would do to experimental animals. The purpose is unknown (but many speculations have been offered at MN MUFON meetings, etc...).

In the end, they build a good case for possibility that the CE4 phenomenon represents an external biotechnological tinkering with humanity, for unknown purposes. They further build the case that the intermediate results of this project are (at times) present among us. Given some of the similarities between cases Budd Hopkins' case files and those in our own (though Hopkins' case files are nearly an order of magnitude thicker than ours), I can only suggest that he offers some very good arguments.

In the end, I can only suggest that you read "Sight Unseen" for yourself and tell me what you think.

Interesting UFO Quotes from High Ranking Military Officials

Former Director of Central Intelligence, Vice Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter:

"It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings. Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are lead to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel."

--The New York Times, Sunday, February 28, 1960: "Air Force Order on 'Saucers' Cited," p. L30.

Apollo 10, 14, & 16 Astronaut, Edgar Mitchell, Ph.D. (Aeronautics, MIT):

"Yes, there have been ET visitations. There have been crashed craft. There have been material and bodies recovered. And there is some group of people somewhere that may or may not be associated with government at this point, but certainly were at one time, that have this knowledge. They have been attempting to conceal this knowledge or not permit it to be widely disseminated. The question of, 'has it been kept

secret, or how could it be kept secret?' It hasn't been kept secret. It's been there all along. But it has been the subject of disinformation in order to deflect attention and create confusion so the truth doesn't come out. Well, Dr. Greer did indeed mount an initiative and did go to Washington, did speak with high level government people, did present some of the witnesses that we've talked about here, to give briefings. He has asked for Congressional hearings on these matters. I attended and helped him with that. And I believe it is a very important effort that we get Congressional oversight of all this. But so far that hasn't happened. We briefed certain members of Congress, some of their staff, some of the people from the White House. We talked with people in the Pentagon. And in general, it was well received and some were quite amazed at what they heard."

--Videotaped Interview. Transcribed in Steven M. Greer, M.D., ed., *Disclosure* (Crozet, VA: Crossing Point Inc., 2001), pp. 61-64. Book and video available at www.disclosureproject.org. See also Edgar Mitchell & Dwight Williams, *The Way of the Explorer* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1996), p. 212.

Mercury & Gemini Astronaut, Colonel Gordon Cooper (ret.):

"At Edwards Air Force Base I was having some of the cameramen film precision landings and we were right on the edge of a dry lake. A saucer flew right over them, put down three landing gears, and landed out on the dry lakebed. They went out there with their cameras towards the UFO.

By the time they got back with the developed film I had higher and higher level officers talking to me. I had a chance to hold it [the film] up to the window to look at it. It was certainly good film. Good close-up shots. Nothing like I had ever seen. [A] double inverted saucer shape.

Well, at the time this happened I was involved in research and development and doing very classified projects at the task center.

I knew we didn't have any vehicles [like that] at that time. I am 99.9% sure that the Russians didn't have any of that type either. there was no doubt in my mind that it was made someplace other than on this earth.

In my opinion they were worried it would panic the public if they knew that someone had vehicles that

had this kind of performance way back right after WWII.

So they started telling lies about it.

Then I think they had to cover it with another lie... now they don't know how to get out of it.

Who was flying these vehicles we saw? I think there were extraterrestrial pilots flying them, no doubt about it."

--Video Interview. Op. cit., pp. 225-229. See also Gordon Cooper & Bruce Henderson, *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2000), pp. 80-91, 194-200.

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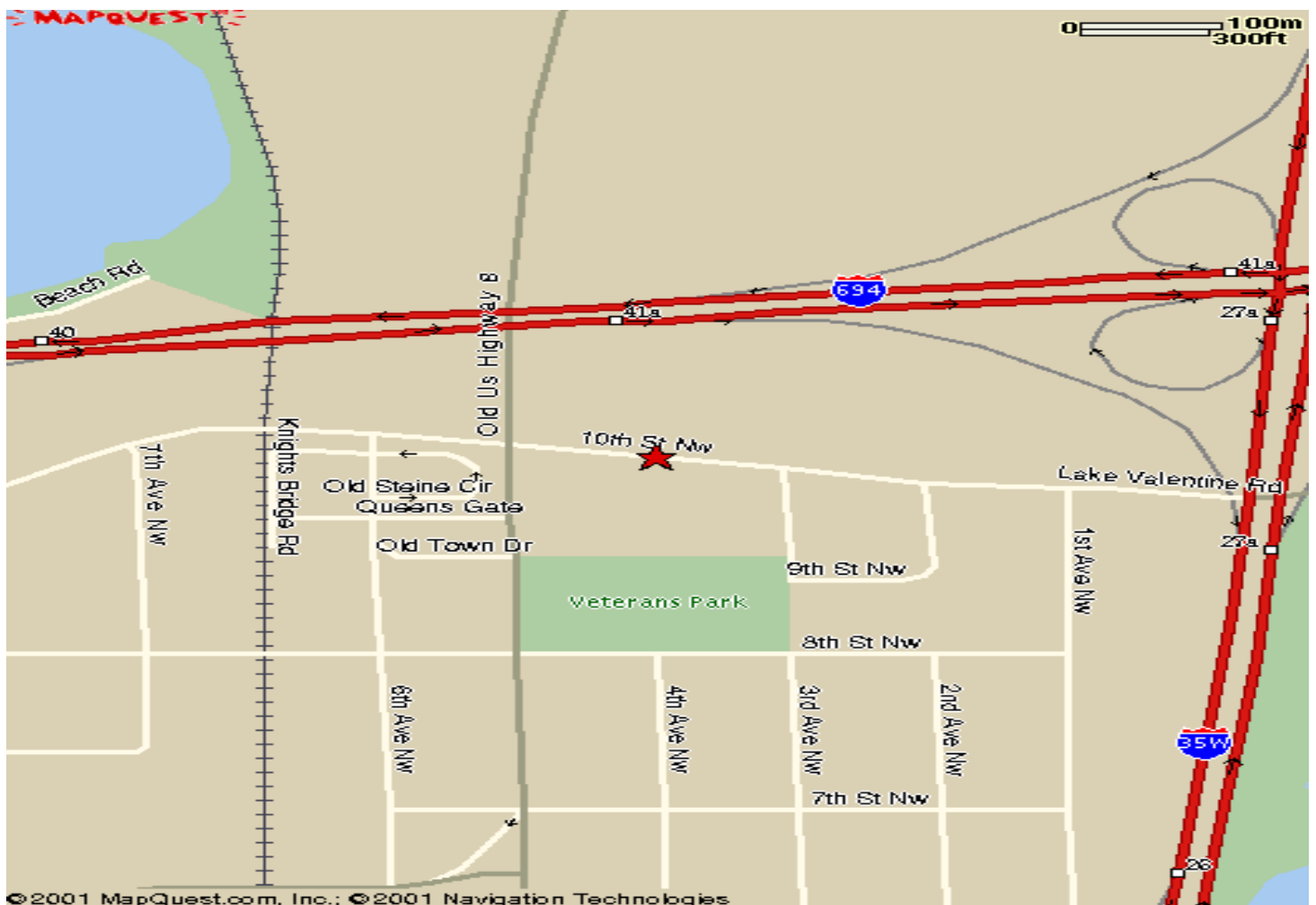
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Minnesota MUFON Journal
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